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PRESS RELEASE

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MPD Officer Sentenced For Use of Excessive Force

- Struck Two Victims, Including Another Officer -

WASHINGTON - A Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Officer, Kisha Coley, was sentenced today to spend the next two weekends in jail and ordered to complete two years of supervised probation for using excessive force in arresting a District man earlier this year, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr.

Coley, 36, pled guilty in October 2010 to two counts of assault. Earlier, as part of her plea agreement, she resigned from MPD. She was sentenced today by the Honorable Judge Marisa J. Demeo in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Coley was given a term of 180 days in jail on each count, as well as a year of probation on each of the charges. All but six days of the jail time was suspended. She began serving the first of her three-day weekend sentences today. In addition, Coley must receive anger management counseling as deemed appropriate by the Probation Department, and perform 100 hours of community service.

According to the government's evidence, Coley was on routine patrol at about 4 a.m. on March 27, 2010, in the 3500 block of Georgia Avenue NW. She was in full uniform and armed with an MPD-issued Armament System Procedure ("asp"), otherwise known as a "baton." Coley encountered the complainant outside of a laundromat and told him to move on.

The complainant, who objected to being told to leave, initially walked north on Georgia Avenue while he and the officer continued to argue. The complainant then crossed the street and started back down Georgia Avenue, telling Coley that he was going to report her to a supervisor at the nearby Third District Substation. When the complainant got closer to the officer's location on his way to the substation, she struck him on the back of his head with her asp.

According to an eyewitness, the complainant was not acting aggressively toward Coley and he did not appear to know that he was about to be hit because he was walking away at the time.

Meanwhile, in response to Coley's call for assistance, another officer left the Third District substation and seconds later pulled his cruiser into the middle of Georgia Avenue. From six to seven car lengths away, he observed Coley facing in his direction, with the complainant and another unknown individual facing her. No physical contact was occurring between any of the individuals. The complainant then turned toward the officer and ran toward him yelling, "Officer, officer!" Without incident, the officer put the complainant against the rear of his cruiser. Coley then ran up, asp still held up, and swung one time, hitting the officer in the back of the knee and striking one of the complainant's hands. When the officer looked at Coley, she mouthed "sorry" and then swung again, hitting the complainant's other hand.

The complainant subsequently was taken to Howard University Hospital, where he was treated for a bloody cut on his left hand and a contusion on his right wrist. The officer was taken to the Washington Hospital Center where he was treated for an injury to his knee.

Coley told a responding official that the complainant ran up on her and she hit him across the chest with the asp to get him away. When he then "turned to get away," she said she hit him on the back of the head because "I wasn't going to let him get away."

In announcing the sentence, U.S Attorney Machen praised the investigative work of the Metropolitan Police Department's Force Investigations Branch, including Sgt. Charles Whittington, Sgt. Raul Mendez, Sgt. Todd Mercier and Detective John Hendrick; Third District Sergeant William White; Officer Hector Deoleo, a training academy instructor; and Crime Scene Technicians Edward Hansohn and Erin Price. He also commended Phaylyn Hunt and Latoya Davenport, who provided paralegal and secretarial support; Criminal Investigator Duncan Templeton, and Assistant United States Attorney Jean Sexton who prosecuted this case.

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